

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SCCT-01 SY-05 /086 W
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R 180931Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2483
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USUN
CINCUSAFE
USCINCWUUR

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TU, LE, CY

SUBJECT: MURDER OF TURKISH DIPLOMAT

1. TURKISH OFFICIAL AND PUBLIC REACTION TO MURDER OF
FIRST SECRETARY OKTAR CIRIT IN BEIRUT FEBRUARY 16 HAS BEEN
RELATIVELY RESTRAINED. ACCORDING TO THE TURKISH PRESS,
THE ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER FEBRUARY 17 CALLED ON THE
GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO FIND THE
MURDERS, AND THE MFA SECRETARY GENERAL CALLED IN THE
LEBANESE AMBASSADOR TO EXPRESS HIS GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN.

2. CONSENSUS OF TURKISH JOURNALISTIC AND OFFICIAL COMMENT IS
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THAT CIRIT'S MURDER IS CONNECTED TO THE MURDER OF TURKISH

AMBASSADORS IN VIENNA AND PARIS FIVE MONTHS AGO. FOREIGN MINISTER CAGLAYANGIL, WHO IS VISITING NORWAY, WAS QUOTED IN THE FEBRUARY 18 PRESS AS SAYING THAT THERE IS A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE THREE MURDERS. HE SAID THAT EVEN IF THOSE WHO CARRIED OUT THE ACTS WERE DIFFERENT PEOPLE, THEIR AIMS WERE THE SAME.

3. MOST OF THE PUBLISHED SPECULATION HAS FOCUSED ON THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE MURDER WAS CARRIED OUT BY A "SECRET ARMENIAN LIBERATION ARMY" AS REPORTED BY THE PRESS IN BEIRUT. THERE HAS BEEN NO RPT NO PUBLIC SUGGESTION THAT THE CRIME MIGHT BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF A GREEK-CYPRIOT ORGANIZATION. NYREN

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